

Grady left Orange County for eight years, from 1961 to 1969, as a U.S. Marine, and was stationed in the deep south. During those years, he was refused a bus ticket because he refused to stand in the line reserved for "colored" people. In another incident, a bottle of ketchup was poured onto his head at a lunch counter which was not yet integrated. Despite these humiliating experiences, Grady refused to bear malice against those who practiced such hate. He heeded Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s advice that the only way to conquer hate is through love, and that in fact hate is more harmful to the hater than the hated.

I had the privilege of membership in the Middletown (NY) Chapter of the NAACP during the years Grady was its president. He often recounted his own sad experiences with racism—always with regret rather than vengeance—and urged us to work to make certain that our children and future generations would not have to ever again bear such indignities.

Grady was married for over 30 years to the former Judy Joyiens of Queens. Judy reminisced that he was the kind of man that, when they were married, his former girl friends attended the ceremony.

Grady, who was only 61 years old when we lost him earlier this week, had lived the last 6 years of his life with a transplanted liver. Regrettably, his long struggle to regain his health did not succeed, but he remained an active and highly visible member of our community right up until the past few weeks.

In addition to his affiliation with our NAACP chapter, Grady was a member of the Lion's Club, the Board of Directors of the Horton Medical Center, and was active on the advisory board of Orange County Community College (of which he was a graduate), and served on the editorial board of the *Times Herald Record*.

Grady also attended Mt. St. Mary College in Newburgh, NY.

In addition to his wife, Judith, Grady is survived by his five children: Diane Fulston of Atlanta, GA; Robin Anderson of Middletown, NY; Keith L. Taylor of the Bronx; Erin Beth Owens, also of the Bronx; and Grady Dennis Owens, Jr., of Monroe, NY.

Grady leaves behind three sisters, one brother, three grand-children, and many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. While no words can help ease the grief that his large, loving family is experiencing, hopefully the knowledge that many of us in what Grady considered his "extended family" share their deep sense of loss, and the realization that we have truly lost a remarkable individual will be of some consolation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to join in extending our deepest sympathies to all of Grady Owen's many loved ones, with our sincerest regrets that this man who set a fine example for all of us in the 20th century will not be joining with us as we enter the new millennium.

TRIBUTE TO KIYOSHI PATRICK
OKURA

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kiyoshi Patrick Okura on the occasion

of his 88th birthday and the 10-year anniversary of the Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation. It is my great pleasure to count Pat as a personal friend, as well as one of the most esteemed members of the Japanese-American community.

Mr. Speaker, Pat Okura is not one to rest on the accolades of his exceptional list of accomplishments and contributions. In fact, even at age 88, he continues to contribute enormously to those around him. But I would like to take time now, in honor of the celebration of himself and his successes, to commend his constant efforts to improve all the communities he has lived in, and his willingness to serve the public.

Pat's leadership in the Asian American community, both local and national, has led to incredible gains in Asian American participation in Government. As the National President of the Japanese American Citizens League, Pat expanded the JACL's tradition of political engagement and brought the organization his message of empowerment. There are very few leaders who impress upon the younger members of a community the importance of engaging the political world as well as Pat. But when he shares his experiences as a Japanese American, his heartfelt encouragement and strength inspires youth with a remarkable motivation.

Pat's dedication to his country and his community shows through in his more than 50 years of work for government and service organizations. Perhaps even more dramatic than his career and volunteer work, however, was Pat's firm commitment to this nation and his personal ideals when he was threatened with slander, racism, and ignorance.

Early in his career, Pat distinguished himself as the first Japanese American to work for the City of Los Angeles' Civil Service Department. The leadership Pat displayed in his job was used against him, however, during the hysteria following the outbreak of the War in the Pacific. Despite his U.S. citizenship and years of working in public service, a writer from the Los Angeles Times falsely accused Pat of plotting espionage against the United States. Eventually Pat, his wife, their families, and thousands of other Japanese Americans, spent 9 months living in horse stables as internees at Santa Anita racetrack before being taken into internment camps.

In spite of the injustices thrust upon he and his family during the War, Pat continued to demonstrate his steadfast desire to help other people, becoming a psychologist at Father Flanagan's Boys Homes in Boys Town, Nebraska—a position he held for seventeen years.

Years later, Pat focused his leadership and compassion on winning reparations for the Japanese Americans arrested during World War II. Pat's efforts combined with other leaders in Asian American community and on all levels of government to win reparations and an apology to more than 120,000 Japanese Americans.

Ten years ago, Pat and his wife Lily founded the Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation. During the past decade, the Foundation has raised awareness for the very specific mental health issues in the Asian American community. Each year, the Foundation brings Asian Americans to Washington, D.C., to meet

with health professionals and learn how to work with federal and state agencies to improve the health of their patients and community.

Mr. Speaker, this Sunday at the Ft. Myer's Army Base Officer's Club in Arlington, Virginia, there will be a very special event in Pat's honor. Pat and Lily will be joined by many of the dozens of young men and women who have benefited from their time as Okura Fellows, as well as many other well-wishers, to celebrate Pat's 88th birthday and commemorate his many accomplishments. As a friend of Pat's it gives me great joy to add to their voices in commending him on his tireless efforts and his well-earned successes. He has been a true leader for so many generations and communities who will always owe their heartfelt gratitude for his life's work.

A TRIBUTE TO MORTON COLLEGE
FOR THEIR SEVENTY-FIFTH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished community college located in my district, Morton College. Morton College, the second oldest community college in Illinois, recently celebrated their seventy-fifth anniversary.

Morton College is a pioneer in the community college concept. Morton College serves various communities in my district, including Lyons, Berwyn, Cicero, McCook, and Stickney, Illinois. It was the people of these communities who in 1924 took note of the national movement towards junior colleges and established Morton College. It was originally housed on the third of floor of Morton High School in Cicero and came close to closing on various occasions, but was saved by the community residents. Since its creation, Morton College has grown from its enrollment of 76 students to 5,000 students.

Morton College has shown its gratitude to the community by providing working-class students with an affordable, home-based access to a university degree. The school's nighttime, weekend, and summer courses allow students to have part-time and full-time jobs and is especially convenient for new immigrants, working parents, and those wishing to go "back to school." Morton College's mission statement begins: "As a comprehensive Community College, recognized by the Illinois Community College Board, Morton College has the mission to cultivate a dynamic learning environment for its students and the community * * *". Morton College has continuously met and exceeded this high standard of excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate Morton College's fine educational achievements and wish them continued success in the future. Please join me in recognizing and congratulating them on their seventy-five years of dedicated service.